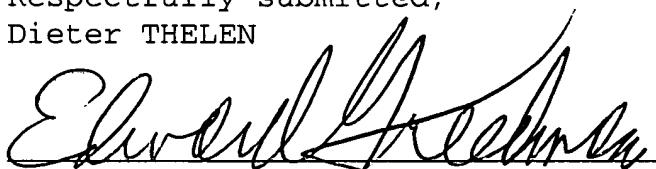


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to related applications has been inserted on page 1, the claims have been amended to put them into better form and the multiple dependency of the claims has been removed so as to avoid the surcharge associated therewith. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of the this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Dieter THELEN



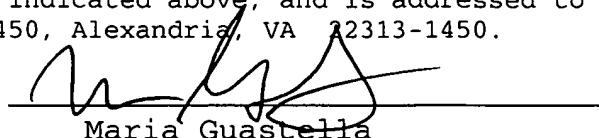
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Maria Guastella